

Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /090 W

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R 190650Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7222

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MY, RP

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN IN MALAYSIA

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2744

1. IN ANTICIPATION ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE BEGINNING JUNE 21, PHILIPPINE EMBASSY HAS BEEN WAGING AWKWARD PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN TO SOFTEN GOM, DIPLOMATIC AND PUBLIC OPINION ON ALLEGED PLIGHT OF MUSLIMS IN SOUTH. STREAM OF LITERATURE ON PHIL MUSLIM CULTURE, RELIGIOUS PRACTICES, GOVT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND LEGAL/POLITICAL RIGHTS HAS INCREASED IN RECENT WEEKS; THICK PACKAGE OF DOCUMENTS, MAGAZINES AND GOVT NEWS RELEASES WAS RECEIVED BY DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS A WEEK AGO (COPIES POUCHED EA/IMS).

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2. PHIL INDEPENDENCE DAY JUNE 12 WAS MARKED BY USUAL RECEPTION

BUT HALL WAS FESTOONED WITH POSTERS OF MARCOS AFV FAMILY, PHIL MUSLIM SCENES AND TOURIST POSTERS, CONVEYING AIR OF "AUTO SHOW" AS ONE DIPLOMATIC OBSERVER PUT IT. ONLY ONE GOM MINISTER--THE "DUTY" MINISTER WHO WAS DESIGNATED TO EXCHANGE TOASTS-- WAS IN ATTENDANCE AND ONLY FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT WAS CHIEF PROTOCOL OFFICER, BJW THIS NOT IN ITSELF UNUSUAL FOR GOM.

3. ON JUNE 17, PHIL EMB MINISTER-COUNSELLOR CRISTETA A. FERIA HOSTED DINNER IN PUBLIC DINING ROOM OF LOCAL HOTEL FOR ASSORTED LEVELS OF LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO INTRODUCE NEW EMB INFORMATION OFFICER WHO WAS TO CONDUCT "BRIEFING". SINCE INVITATIONS ARRIVED WITH PACKAGE OF PROPAGANDA MENTIONED ABOVE, INVITEES ASSUMED THAT BRIEFING WOULD DEAL WITH SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE SITUATION. MORE-OVER, ON ARRIVAL AT HOTEL, MOST CONSPICUOUS PERSONS IN ROOM WERE SEVEN PHILIPP U MUSLIMS (SEE LIST BELOW) SPORTING TRADITIONAL MUSLIM SONGKOKS WHO CIRCULATED AMONG DIPS INTRODUCING SELVES AS MEMBERS "SPECIAL GOODWILL DELEGATION SENT TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS ATTENDING ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE." HOWEVER, WHEN INFORMATION OFFICER, D.Y. CAPARAS, GOT UP TO SPEAK HE ONLY MADE A FEW PERSONAL REMARKS, STATED HE ASSUMED THERE WAS NOTHING MORE TO ADD TO MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED PREVIOUS WEEK, AND SAT DOWN. IN ADDITION, ONE OF MUSLIM DELEGATES WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS GOOD FKIEKD OF MANILA DCM PURNELL AND WHO WE BELIEVE WAS ALI MAKAPANTAN ABBAS, JR., TOLD KL DCM CHESLAW THAT GROUP HAD NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM NEW PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR ON HOW THEY WILL OPERATE DURING FONMINS CONFERENCE. CONSEQUENTLY, STRONG PITCH THAT WAS EXPECTED ON SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES NEVER MATERIALIZED AND SESSION FELL FLAT.

4. ACCORDING TO PHIL EMB, MUSLIMS SENT BY EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT INCLUDES FOLLOWING: MAKAPANTON, VICE GOV SAN AMIL ASAN OF TAWI-TAWI, ATTORNEY MICHAEL MASTURA, MAMARINTA DIRAWATUN, ABDUL KARIM SIDRI, ATTORNEY ABRAHAM RASUL, AND AMIL HAMJKA TAHIL. MISS FERIA PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFILIATIONS OF ALL BUT TAWI-TAWI VICE GOVERNOR, BUT WE AWARE FROM EMBASSY MANILA REPORTING THAT MAKAPANTON IS SPECIAL ASST TO MELCHOR.

5. COMMENT: THUS FAR, NEW PHIL AMBASSADOR YUSUP ABUBAKAR HAS ACQUITTED HIMSELF WELL, EVEN MANAGING TO PAY CALL ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN BEFORE PRESENTING HIS CREDENTIALS TO KING.
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MALAY LANGUAGE PRESS HAS RUN SEVERAL SHORT INTERVIEWS AND COVERAGE OF PRESENTATION OF HIS CREDENTIALS JUNE 15 WAS GOOD. ON WHOLE, HOWEVER, PHIL EMBASSY NOT DOING VERY WELL EITHER IN EXPLAINING GOP VIEWPOINT ON SOUTHERN DISSIDENCE TO MALAYSIAN PUBLIC OR WITHIN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND GOVT CIRCLES.
UNDERHILL

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